

INTELLOFAX 21

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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The two Communist newspapers appearing in Hong Kong are the Ta Kung Pao and the Wen Hui Pao. A third paper, the Hua Hsiang Pao, suspended publication in Hong Kong on 16 October 1949 and reappeared in Canton on 20 October, following the Communist occupation of that city. Hua Hsiang Pao was financed by TAN Ka-kee (陳嘉庚), well-known Singapore millionaire, and was affiliated with the Chun Chung (羣衆) (Masses), which also moved to Canton and is in publication there.
2. The Ta Kung Pao was originally the organ of the Political Science Clique. Before the fall of Shanghai, however, its policy and politics became increasingly pro-Communist, and since then it has been a firm advocate of the Communist cause. Although officially the paper is not attributed to the Party, its editorial and staff writers are all well-known Communists. Its publisher is LI Hsieh-wen (李俠文), who has been with it for more than ten years; its editor is MA Ting-tung (馬廷棟), also known as Thomas MA, who joined the paper in 1948. MA spent a year in England on a British Council scholarship. Before the war, he was a translator for several Hong Kong papers. He stands for social justice but is neither a radical nor an extreme leftist.
3. The Wen Hui Pao, first published in Shanghai in 1940, was registered in Hong Kong as a British newspaper. It suspended publication during the Japanese occupation but resumed it in Shanghai after the war. In 1947, it was banned in Shanghai and in 1948 moved to Hong Kong. The Shanghai edition was revived in July 1949. Originally a liberal paper, it became pro-Communist as its influence spread. It is now considered inferior to the Ta Kung Pao in quality and circulation.
4. The Wen Hui Pao is published by LIU Huo-tzu (劉火子), of whom little is known except that he is an ardent backer of Communism. Its editor is LIU Su-mu (劉思慕), who was known to be pro-Communist even when, in the latter part of 1945, he was Chinese editor for OWI in Canton.

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